

2020

## Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies of the First African Americans on the North Carolina Bench,

Adrienne DeWitt  
*Campbell University School of Law*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.campbell.edu/clr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Adrienne DeWitt, *Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies of the First African Americans on the North Carolina Bench*, 42 CAMPBELL L. REV. 81 (2020).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Repository @ Campbell University School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campbell Law Review by an authorized editor of Scholarly Repository @ Campbell University School of Law.

# Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies of the First African Americans on the North Carolina Bench

ADRIENNE DEWITT\*

INTRODUCTION.....	81
ALEXANDER-RALSTON, ELRETA MELTON .....	83
BEASLEY, CHERI .....	87
BIGGS, LORETTA.....	89
CHESS, SAMMIE.....	91
DUNCAN, ALLYSON K. ....	94
ERWIN, RICHARD C.....	97
FRYE, HENRY.....	100
FULTON, SHIRLEY.....	104
GRANT, CY A.....	106
JOHNSON, CLIFTON E. ....	108
TIMMONS-GOODSON, PATRICIA .....	112

## INTRODUCTION

In February 2019, Campbell Law School dedicated the First African Americans on the North Carolina Bench Display to its faculty, students, and guests of the law school.<sup>1</sup> Using newspaper clippings, photographs, government documents, and other ephemera, the Display tells the story of the first African Americans appointed or elected to North Carolina state and

---

\*Reference Librarian, Campbell University School of Law, Law Library. My sincerest thanks to Dean J. Rich Leonard for giving me the opportunity, to Law Library Director Olivia Weeks for her continued support, to my fellow Law Librarians Teresa Teague, Caitlin Swift, and Kim Hocking for their valued assistance, and to Kate Marshburn, for her talent in putting together my design.

1. The event was held on February 28, 2019. See Jimmy Tomlin, *Honorable, Indeed: New Exhibit Pays Tribute to Sammie Chess, Jr.*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Mar. 4, 2019. It should be noted that this bibliography is broader in scope than the Display. It includes information about the first African American women judges on the North Carolina state and federal courts, while the Display itself is gender-neutral and features only the first African Americans on North Carolina's state and federal courts.

federal courts in a timeline format.<sup>2</sup> The Display is currently housed on the first floor of the Law School. The Law School has also made portable banners so the copies of the Display can travel throughout the area. Last summer, the banners were displayed at the City of Raleigh Museum,<sup>3</sup> and plans are in place to display the banners in other venues around the city in the upcoming year.

The Display is both a timeline and a biography of each judge's life, up to and after their time on the bench. Pictures, newspaper articles, letters, and government documents are used to show major events in each judge's life. Most articles and ephemera came from open source digital databases, although some had to be pulled from the State Library of North Carolina and the State Archives of North Carolina. Our search was broad, and we ended up collecting many more articles than we needed. After the Display was completed, we decided the next step was to organize everything we found into a single bibliography.

The following bibliography consists of the newspaper articles and government documents we used to create both the permanent and travelling Displays. Most of the articles can be found on the open source North Carolina Digital Newspaper Collection<sup>4</sup> and in the State Library and State Archives.<sup>5</sup> Some articles were retrieved using the Law Library's subscription newspaper platforms, such as Newsbank and the North Carolina Collection at *Newspapers.com*. Finally, both Judge Elreta Alexander-Ralston and Judge Sammie Chess, Jr. have online archives of their papers, photographs,

---

2. Samuel Mitchell has been credited as the first African American judge in North Carolina. He was appointed assistant judge of the Raleigh City Court, but he did not serve on a North Carolina state or federal court. Louis Payne, *Negro Lawyer Named Assistant Judge Here*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 7, 1967, at 26:6; *Mitchell Seeks New Judgeship*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Feb. 7, 1968, at 24:5; *Negro Judge Resigns Here*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Jun. 12, 1968, at 28:3. Our display only features judges who either won their seats by election, or who were appointed to their seat by a governor or particular president.

3. 'First African Americans on the North Carolina Bench' Pop-Up at City of Raleigh Museum, CAMPBELL UNIV. NEWS (Aug. 6, 2019), <https://perma.cc/R8A9-JSCN>.

4. *North Carolina Newspapers*, DIGITALNC, <https://perma.cc/YZQ3-VUFW>.

5. STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA, (on file with Campbell Law Review); STATE ARCHIVES OF NORTH CAROLINA, <https://perma.cc/WK24-QMHM>.

and personal effects. Judge Alexander's papers are available at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Library.<sup>6</sup> Judge Chess's photographs and ephemera can be found at the High Point Museum.<sup>7</sup>

Listed below in alphabetical order are the names of each African American judge, the North Carolina court to which they were appointed or elected, a brief biographical sketch, and a bibliography of relevant newspaper articles and government documents.

## ALEXANDER-RALSTON, ELRETA MELTON

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED TO A JUDGESHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA - 1968

Judge Elreta Melton Alexander-Ralston was born on March 21, 1919 in Smithfield, North Carolina.<sup>8</sup> She died on March 14, 1998.<sup>9</sup> Throughout her judicial career she was known as Judge Alexander, or Judge "A."<sup>10</sup>

Judge Alexander graduated from Dudley High School in Greensboro, North Carolina.<sup>11</sup> After high school, she earned a degree in music from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.<sup>12</sup> After her college graduation, she married Dr. Girardeau Alexander.<sup>13</sup> A friend's election loss encouraged her to go to law school;<sup>14</sup> however, instead of attending law school in North Carolina, her husband told her she had to go to a law school in New York City.<sup>15</sup> Judge Alexander entered Columbia Law School

---

6. Elreta Alexander Collection, MSS 223, Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

7. *Person Record: Sammie Chess, Jr.*, HIGH POINT MUSEUM, <https://perma.cc/QQ6H-QWAS>.

8. Virginia Summey, *Redefining Activism: Judge Elreta Alexander Ralston and Civil Rights Advocacy in the New South*, 90 N.C. HIST. REV. 237, 239 (2013) [hereinafter *Redefining Activism*].

9. *Id.* at 257.

10. *Id.* at 238 n.2.

11. *Id.* at 241.

12. *Id.*

13. *Id.*

14. *Id.*

15. Patricia Timmons-Goodson, "*Darlin', the Truth Will Set You Free*"—A Tribute to Judge Elreta Melton Alexander, 4 ELON L. REV. 151, 156 (2012). Judge Alexander later explained why she chose Columbia Law:

in 1943,<sup>16</sup> and in 1945, became the first African American woman to graduate from that institution.<sup>17</sup>

Although successfully finishing law school, it took Judge Alexander two years before she was allowed to take the North Carolina Bar Exam.<sup>18</sup> She had to first prove herself to be an “exceptionally meritorious” candidate to the North Carolina Bar.<sup>19</sup> In July of 1945, she received word that she was an exceptionally meritorious candidate; however, injuries from a house fire prevented her from taking the October exam.<sup>20</sup> In the spring of 1946, she returned to Harlem to practice law.<sup>21</sup> When she returned to register for the Bar later that year, she was denied because Bar rules required her to live in North Carolina for twelve months.<sup>22</sup> Determined to get her license, Judge Alexander drove between New York and North Carolina for the next year to meet state residency requirements.<sup>23</sup> In 1947, she was allowed to sit for the North Carolina Bar exam.<sup>24</sup> She passed and was admitted to the North Carolina Bar.<sup>25</sup> Judge Alexander was the first African American woman to practice law in North Carolina.<sup>26</sup>

Judge Alexander opened her own practice in Greensboro, North Carolina.<sup>27</sup> During her time in practice, Judge Alexander represented a wide range of clients, including members of the Ku Klux Klan, maintaining that

---

[M]y marriage was on the rocks...I sat up in the [North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College] and went through all the catalogs, all the schools in New York. And the most expensive one was Columbia. So I wanted to punish [Dr. Alexander] a little bit. And that's how I wrote Columbia and they got interested. *Id.*

16. *Id.*

17. *Id.* at 158. Prior to 1971, most law graduates did not receive a Juris Doctorate. They instead received a LL.B., traditionally an undergraduate degree, because law schools used to not require students to have an undergraduate education. See David Perry, *How Did Lawyers Become “Doctors”?*, 84 N.Y. ST. B. ASS’N J. 20, 20 (2012). At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, schools like the University of Chicago and Stanford began awarding Juris Doctorates; however, Harvard, Yale, and Columbia continued awarding the LL.B. *Id.* at 21.

18. Timmons-Goodson, *supra* note 15, at 160.

19. *Id.* at 158 (internal quotation marks omitted).

20. *Id.* at 158–59.

21. *Redefining Activism*, *supra* note 8, at 242.

22. Virginia Lyndsay Summey, *Gender, Justice, and Jim Crow: North Carolina Judge Elreta Alexander and the Long Civil Rights Era*, 30 (May 2012) (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Montana) (on file with Campbell Law Review) [hereinafter *Gender, Justice, and Jim Crow*].

23. *Id.*

24. *Id.*

25. Timmons-Goodson, *supra* note 15, at 161.

26. *Id.*

27. *Id.*

she helped steer many of them “away from the fold.”<sup>28</sup> When asked about the civil rights movement, Judge Alexander stated, “I never got involved in the civil rights movement except behind the scenes . . . [ but] every case to me was a civil rights case.”<sup>29</sup>

Judge Alexander was also the first African American woman to argue a case before the North Carolina Supreme Court.<sup>30</sup>

After over twenty years in practice, Judge Alexander decided to run for a district court judgeship.<sup>31</sup> She came in third in a twelve-candidate race, with over 33,000 votes, and won one of six open judgeships.<sup>32</sup> She was not only the first African American elected to a state court in North Carolina, she was also the second African American woman to be elected judge in the nation.<sup>33</sup> Judge Alexander won re-election to the bench in 1972, 1976, and 1980, each time unopposed.<sup>34</sup>

Judge Alexander remarried in 1979, to John Ralston, a retired Internal Revenue Service Officer.<sup>35</sup> She retired from the bench on April 1, 1981 and returned to private practice with the firm Alexander-Ralston, Speckhard, and Speckhard.<sup>36</sup> In 1995, Judge Alexander retired from the practice of law.<sup>37</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Black Judges in the South*, EBONY, Mar. 1971, at 31–33.

Don Follmer, *Her Honor's Philosophy: 'Every Judge Must Push Own Shovel'*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, May 10, 1969, at 2.

*Elreta Alexander Files Candidacy*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Apr. 22, 1976, at 17.

---

28. *Gender, Justice, and Jim Crow*, *supra* note 22, at 1–2 (internal quotation marks omitted).

29. *Id.* at 3 (alteration in original).

30. *Id.* at 99.

31. *See Mrs. Elreta M. Alexander to Run for Judge*, FUTURE OUTLOOK (Greensboro, N.C.), Feb. 23, 1968, at 5.

32. *Gender, Justice, and Jim Crow*, *supra* note 22, at 63–64.

33. *Id.* at 64.

34. Timmons-Goodson, *supra* note 15, at 167.

35. *Id.* at 172.

36. *Id.*

37. *Id.*

Forrest Cates, *History Made in Guilford*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Nov. 6, 1968, at 2C.

*Judge Holds 'Judgment Day,'* HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Dec. 30, 1972, at 3A.

*Mrs. Elreta M. Alexander to Run for Judge*, FUTURE OUTLOOK (Greensboro, N.C.), Feb. 23, 1968, at 5.

*N.C. 18 District Elects Negro Judge and State Legislator*, CAROLINA TIMES (Durham, N.C.), Nov. 9, 1968, at 1.

Patricia Timmons-Goodson, "Darlin', the Truth Will Set You Free"—*A Tribute to Judge Elreta Melton Alexander*, 4 ELON L. REV. 151 (2012).

*Search for Freedom Eludes Man Negro Judge Tells A&T Graduates*, FUTURE OUTLOOK (Greensboro, N.C.), June 6, 1969, at 3.

*Six New District Court Judges Officially Assume Their Duties*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Dec. 2, 1968, at 17.

*The Flaw in the System*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, May 12, 1974, at 4A.

Virginia L. Summey, *Gender, Justice, and Jim Crow: North Carolina Judge Elreta Alexander and the Long Civil Rights Era*, 30 (May 2012) (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Montana) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Virginia L. Summey, *Ralston, Elreta Melton Alexander*, NCPEDIA (2013), <https://perma.cc/53XY-FXRU>.

Virginia L. Summey, *Redefining Activism: Judge Elreta Alexander Ralston and Civil Rights Advocacy in the New South*, 90 N.C. HIST. REV. 237 (2013).

## BEASLEY, CHERI

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT - 2019

Chief Justice Cheri Beasley was born on February 14, 1966 in Chicago, Illinois.<sup>38</sup> She earned her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University in 1988 and her law degree from University of Tennessee College of Law in 1991.<sup>39</sup> In 1993, she came to North Carolina's Cumberland County to serve as a public defender, until Governor Jim Hunt appointed her to Cumberland County's Twelfth Judicial District Court.<sup>40</sup> After her initial appointment, then-Judge Beasley won re-election to the Cumberland County District Court in 2002 and 2006.<sup>41</sup>

In 2008, then-Judge Beasley defeated incumbent Judge J. Douglas McCullough for his seat on the North Carolina Court of Appeals.<sup>42</sup> She was the first African American woman elected to the Court of Appeals without having first been appointed by a governor.<sup>43</sup>

In 2012, Justice Beasley was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Beverly Perdue.<sup>44</sup> In 2014, Justice Beasley narrowly defeated challenger Mike Robinson to retain her seat on the bench.<sup>45</sup> Governor Roy Cooper appointed her Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court in 2019, making her the first African American woman to serve as Chief Justice.<sup>46</sup>

38. Corey G. Johnson, *Tireless Effort Pays Off*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Nov. 8, 2008, at 1B.

39. *Cheri Beasley*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 25, 2008, at G20.

40. Marc Barnes, *Clark, Beasley Named Judges*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Feb. 9, 1999; *Cheri Beasley*, N.C. JUD. BRANCH, <https://perma.cc/M9CH-Y8DX>; Johnson, *supra* note 38.

41. *Election Results*, N.C. ST. BOARD OF ELECTIONS, <https://perma.cc/6Z3E-GHE3>.

42. Cheri Beasley, *Candidates Speak: Cheri Beasley - Experienced, with Integrity as a Justice*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER (Oct. 30, 2014), <https://perma.cc/E6M9-8DX6>; Johnson, *supra* note 38, at 1B.

43. Beasley, *supra* note 42, at 1.

44. Craig Jarvis, *Perdue Picks Top Court Judge*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Dec. 13, 2012, at 1A.

45. Anne Blythe, *Recount Confirms Beasley's Win in N.C. Supreme Court Race*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Nov. 24, 2014) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

46. Will Doran, *Cheri Beasley Will Become the First Black Woman to be Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Feb. 12, 2019, (on file with Campbell Law Review).



**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Anne Blythe, *Recount Confirms Beasley's Win in N.C. Supreme Court Race*, News & Observer (Nov. 24, 2014) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Cheri Beasley, *Candidates Speak: Cheri Beasley - Experienced, with Integrity as a Justice*, Fayetteville Observer (Oct. 30, 2014), <https://perma.cc/E6M9-8DX6>.

*Cheri Beasley*, N.C. JUD. BRANCH, <https://perma.cc/M9CH-Y8DX>.

*Cheri Beasley*, News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 25, 2008, at G20.

Corey G. Johnson, *Tireless Effort Pays Off*, Fayetteville Observer, Nov. 8, 2008, at 1B.

Craig Jarvis, *Perdue Picks Top Court Judge*, News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.), Dec. 13, 2012, at 1A.

Marc Barnes, *Clark, Beasley Named Judges*, Fayetteville Observer, Feb. 9, 1999.

*Perdue Appoints Beasley to N.C. Supreme Court*, Mountaineer (Dec. 12, 2012), <https://perma.cc/2QP2-UWAQ>.

Will Doran, *Cheri Beasley Will Become the First Black Woman to be Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court*, News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.), Feb. 12, 2019, (on file with Campbell Law Review).

## BIGGS, LORETTA

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE IN NORTH CAROLINA - 2014

Judge Loretta Biggs was born on March 6, 1954, in Atlanta, Georgia.<sup>47</sup> She graduated *cum laude* from Spelman College in 1976, and earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1979.<sup>48</sup> After law school, she worked as staff counsel for Coca-Cola in Atlanta from 1979 to 1982.<sup>49</sup> She next moved to Winston-Salem, where she became an assistant district attorney for Forsyth County, North Carolina in 1984.<sup>50</sup>

In 1987, Governor James “Jim” Martin appointed Judge Biggs to the Forsyth County District Court.<sup>51</sup> She served on that bench until 1994, when she joined the staff of the United States Attorney’s Office in Greensboro.<sup>52</sup> In 2001, Governor Jim Hunt appointed her to the North Carolina Court of Appeals<sup>53</sup>; however, she lost re-election in 2002.<sup>54</sup> In 2003, she joined the Winston-Salem law firm of Davis & Harwell.<sup>55</sup>

In 2014, President Barack Obama nominated her to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.<sup>56</sup> Judge Biggs is the first African American woman to serve as a lifetime appointed federal judge in North Carolina.<sup>57</sup>

---

47. *Judge Loretta Copeland Biggs*, CT. LISTENER, <https://perma.cc/Q5WU-CFHX>.

48. Office of the Press Sec’y, *President Obama Nominates Seven to Serve on the United States District Courts*, WHITE HOUSE, PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA (Sept. 18, 2014), <https://perma.cc/46GZ-7NKU>.

49. *Id.*; *Assistant D.A. Appointed to Judgeship*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Feb. 5, 1987, at A3.

50. Office of the Press Sec’y, *supra* note 48.

51. *Assistant D.A. Appointed to Judgeship*, *supra* note 49.

52. *Judge Joins U.S. Attorney’s Staff*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC., July 7, 1994, at B4.

53. David Rice, *Biggs Appointed to Seat on Court of Appeals*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Jan. 6, 2001, at A1.

54. Matthew Eisley, *Historic Panel Hears Case*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 14, 2002, at B1.

55. Kristi E. Swartz, *Biggs, Former Judge, Joins Local Law Practice: New Job Continues Lifetime of Involvement in the Legal Field*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Jan. 20, 2003, at D1.

56. Confirmation Hearings on Fed. Appointments Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 113th Cong. 673 (2017).

57. *Senate Confirms Loretta Biggs*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Dec. 25, 2014, at A3.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Assistant D.A. Appointed to Judgeship*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Feb. 5, 1987, at A3.

*Confirmation Hearings on Federal Appointments: Hearings Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 113th Cong. 673 (2014).

*Confirmation Hearings on Federal Appointments: Hearings Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 113th Cong. 675–677 (2014) (statement of Senator Kay Hagan).

David Rice, *Biggs Appointed to Seat on Court of Appeals*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Jan. 6, 2001, at A1.

Erin Mizelle, *Loretta Biggs Becomes U.S. Judge*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Mar. 12, 2015, at A1.

John Hinton, *Judicial Challenger Makes Direct Appeal: Steelman Says He's 'More Qualified': Biggs Disappointed by 'Potshot'*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Oct. 7, 2002, at B1.

*Judge to Join U.S. Attorney in Guilford*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC. (July 7, 1994), <https://perma.cc/A3GR-JL8U>.

*Judge Loretta Copeland Biggs*, CT. LISTENER, <https://perma.cc/Q5WU-CFHX>.

Kristi E. Swartz, *Biggs, Former Judge, Joins Local Law Practice: New Job Continues Lifetime of Involvement in the Legal Field*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Jan. 20, 2003, at D1.

Matthew Eisley, *Historic Panel Hears Case*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 14, 2002, at B1.

Office of the Press Sec'y, *President Obama Nominates Seven to Serve on the United States District Courts*, WHITE HOUSE, PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA (Sept. 18, 2014), <https://perma.cc/46GZ-7NKU>.

*Senate Confirms Loretta Biggs*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Dec. 25, 2014, at A3.

## CHESSE, SAMMIE

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE - 1971

Judge Sammie Chess, Jr. was born on March 28, 1934 in the Bull Pond community near Allendale, South Carolina.<sup>58</sup> He moved with his mother to High Point, North Carolina when he was twelve-years-old.<sup>59</sup> He dropped out of school at sixteen, but returned and graduated at the urging of his principal, Samuel E. Burford.<sup>60</sup> After high school, Judge Chess attended North Carolina Central University for both his undergraduate and law degrees.<sup>61</sup> He was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1958.<sup>62</sup>

Judge Chess returned to High Point to practice law, where he played an important role in litigating civil rights issues.<sup>63</sup> His first ten years of practice was devoted to civil rights litigation, such as defending protesters from charges of violating city ordinances in High Point and other North Carolina communities.<sup>64</sup> Before his appointment, Judge Chess represented over 3,000 clients in civil rights issues.<sup>65</sup>

Judge Chess was appointed to the Guilford County Superior Court by Governor Bob Scott on November 8, 1971, for a term expiring June 30, 1975.<sup>66</sup> After his appointment ended, Judge Chess left the bench to return to private practice.<sup>67</sup> In 1991, Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) Fred Morrison and Chief Administrative Law Judge Julian Mann III encouraged

58. JOE L. WEBSTER, *THE MAKING AND MEASURE OF A JUDGE* 1 (2017).

59. Ray Hubbard, *First Black Superior Court Judge is Long Way from Sharecropping*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), Nov. 11, 1971, at 10.

60. *Id.*; WEBSTER, *supra* note 58, at 24.

61. Evie Staunton, *Black Judge Feels Court Not Meeting People’s Need*, GASTONIA GAZETTE, Dec. 15, 1971, at 24.

62. *Id.*

63. Hubbard, *supra* note 59.

64. WEBSTER, *supra* note 58, at 62. When Judge Chess defended 39 defendants for protesting segregation in High Point, he managed to get seven cases dismissed by arguing that there had been no obstruction of the sidewalk, a necessary element of the charge. *Id.*; *see also* *Convictions Ruled in Racial Cases*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Oct. 5, 1963, at 7.

65. Editorial, *Judge Sammie Chess*, J. & GUIDE (Norfolk, V.A.), Nov. 27, 1971.

66. Letter from the Honorable Robert W. Scott, Governor of the State of N.C., to the Honorable Sammie Chess, Jr., Special Judge of the Superior Court of N.C. (Nov. 8, 1971) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

67. *Chess to Open Law Office*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, June 24, 1975, at 11.

Judge Chess to accept the position of an ALJ with the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings.<sup>68</sup> Judge Chess served as an ALJ for nearly sixteen years, from November 1, 1991 to November 1, 2007.<sup>69</sup>

Throughout his career, Judge Chess received many awards from state and national associations. In 2002, Judge Chess received the Victor Roskopf Award for Judicial Professionalism and Ethics from the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, an award given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of administrative law.<sup>70</sup> His other awards include induction into the African American Cultural Complex's Hall of Fame in Raleigh, North Carolina, and the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in Charlotte, North Carolina.<sup>71</sup> In 2015, he was awarded the Liberty Bell Award from the Young Lawyer's Division of the North Carolina Bar Association.<sup>72</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Black Judge is Appointed*, DAILY-TIMES NEWS (Burlington, N.C.), Nov. 5, 1971, at 1.

*Black on the Bench*, STATESVILLE REC. & LANDMARK, Nov. 6, 1971, at 1.

Bob Burchette, *Judge Retires in Name Only*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC. (Oct. 17, 2007), <https://perma.cc/T3YA-795B>.

*Chess to Open Law Office*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, June 24, 1975, at 11.

*Convictions Ruled in Racial Cases*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Oct. 5, 1963, at 7.

---

68. WEBSTER, *supra* note 58, at 115–16.

69. *Id.* at 116–17.

70. Julian Mann, *Judge Sammie Chess Honored*, NAALJ NEWS, Winter, 2005, at 6; see Bob Burchette, *Judge Retires in Name Only*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC. (Oct. 17, 2007), <https://perma.cc/T3YA-795B>.

71. WEBSTER, *supra* note 58, at 150.

72. *Id.* at 153–54. The Liberty Bell Award is given to those who have “strengthened the American System of freedom under law” by members of the Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association. *Id.* at 154. Other recipients include former North Carolina Governors Terry Sanford and James Hunt and North Carolina Supreme Court Justices Susie Sharpe, Patricia Timmons-Goodson, and Henry Frye. *Id.*

Evie Staunton, *Black Judge Feels Court Not Meeting People's Need*, GASTONIA GAZETTE, Dec. 15, 1971, at 24.

Editorial, *Judge Sammie Chess*, J. & GUIDE (Norfolk, V.A.), Nov. 27, 1971.

JOE L. WEBSTER, *THE MAKING AND MEASURE OF A JUDGE* (2017).

Julian Mann, *Judge Sammie Chess Honored*, NAALJ NEWS, Winter, 2005, at 6.

Letter from the Honorable Sammie Chess, Jr., Special Judge of the Superior Court of N.C., to the Honorable Robert W. Scott, Governor of N.C. (December 13, 1971) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Letter from the Honorable Robert W. Scott, Governor of the State of N.C., to the Honorable Clifton E. Johnson, Dist. Court Judge of Mecklenburg Cty., N.C. (Aug. 7, 1969) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

*Light Calendar is Heard*, STATESVILLE REC. & LANDMARK, Jan. 17, 1972, at 8A.

Ray Hubbard, *Around Capitol Square*, STATESVILLE REC. & LANDMARK, Nov. 12, 1971, at 8B.

Ray Hubbard, *First Black Superior Court Judge is Long Way from Sharecropping*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), Nov. 11, 1971, at 10.

*Rosskopf Award to Sammie Chess*, NAALJ NEWS, Mar. 2003, at 2.

*Some Thoughts from Sammie Chess, Jr.*, DAILY TIMES-NEWS (Burlington, N.C.), Nov. 10, 1971, at 4A.

*The Sammie Chess Ties to Alamance*, DAILY TIMES-NEWS (Burlington, N.C.), Aug. 27, 1974, at 2.

## DUNCAN, ALLYSON K.

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ON THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FROM NORTH CAROLINA - 2003

Judge Allyson K. Duncan was born on September 5, 1951, in Durham, North Carolina.<sup>73</sup> She graduated from Hampton University in Virginia in 1972, and earned her law degree from Duke University School of Law in 1975.<sup>74</sup> After law school, she clerked for the Honorable Julia Cooper Mack in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals before serving as legal counsel for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.<sup>75</sup> In 1986, she returned to Durham to teach at North Carolina Central University School of Law.<sup>76</sup>

In 1990, Governor Jim Martin appointed Judge Duncan to the North Carolina Court of Appeals, making her the first African American woman to serve on that court.<sup>77</sup> However, to hold the seat for the full term, she had to run for statewide election.<sup>78</sup> She narrowly lost to the Honorable James Wynn, Jr. that same year.<sup>79</sup>

After the election, Governor Martin nominated Judge Duncan to the North Carolina Utilities Commission, where she served as the first female African American Commissioner until 1998.<sup>80</sup> She then returned to private practice at the Raleigh firm Kilpatrick Stockton<sup>81</sup> until 2003, when she was nominated by President George W. Bush to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.<sup>82</sup> She was confirmed by unanimous vote in the Senate on July 17, 2003.<sup>83</sup> She received her commission on August 15, 2003.<sup>84</sup>

73. *Judge Allyson Kay Duncan*, CT. LISTENER, <https://perma.cc/34UE-42GH>.

74. *Id.*

75. *Id.*

76. *New Appellate Judge*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, Feb. 13, 1990, at 2C; see Mark Johnson, *The Law Runs in Her Family*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Sept. 3, 2003, at 1B.

77. *New Appellate Judge*, *supra* note 76, at 2C.

78. Johnson, *supra* note 76, at 5B.

79. *Id.*

80. *Another 'First' for Ms. Duncan*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Apr. 29, 1991, at A8; *Judge Allyson Kay Duncan*, *supra* note 73.

81. Matthew Eisley, *Possible Nominee Gets High Praise*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Feb. 3, 2003, at 4B.

82. *Id.* at 1B; see also *Judge Allyson Kay Duncan*, *supra* note 73.

83. John Wagner, *Duncan Confirmed Unanimously*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), July 18, 2003, at 3A; see also *Judge Allyson Kay Duncan*, *supra* note 73.

84. *Judge Allyson Kay Duncan*, *supra* note 73.

In 2018, Judge Duncan announced that she would retire from the bench.<sup>85</sup> On March 5, 2019, Judge Duncan assumed senior status.<sup>86</sup> Her service was “terminated on July 31, 2019, due to retirement.”<sup>87</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

149 CONG. REC. S9, 558–559 (daily ed. July 17, 2003) (nomination of Allyson K. Duncan, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit).

*Another ‘First’ for Ms. Duncan*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Apr. 29, 1991, at A8.

*Duncan, Allyson Kay*, FED. JUD. CTR., <https://perma.cc/6XP6-EVWV>.

*Duke Law Celebrates Retiring Fourth Circuit Judge Allyson K. Duncan ‘75, Unveils Portrait*, DUKE L. NEWS (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://perma.cc/CTA7-FXR2>.

Editorial, *N.C. Jurist Allyson Duncan Has All the Right Stuff to Serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, June 23, 2003, at 6.

Joe Dew, *Martin Names Former Judge to Utilities Commission Seat*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Apr. 25, 1991, at B3.

John Wagner, *Bush to Nominate Raleigh Lawyer*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Apr. 25, 2003, at B5.

John Wagner, *Duncan Confirmed Unanimously*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), July 18, 2003, at 3A.

John Wagner, *Hearing Slated on U.S. Appeals Court Bid*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), June 18, 2003, at 5B.

---

85. *Duke Law Celebrates Retiring Fourth Circuit Judge Allyson K. Duncan ‘75, Unveils Portrait*, DUKE L. NEWS (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://perma.cc/CTA7-FXR2>.

86. *Duncan, Allyson Kay*, FED. JUD. CTR., <https://perma.cc/6XP6-EVWV>.

87. *Id.*



John Wagner, *Smooth Sailing for Duncan*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), June 26, 2003, at 1B.

*Judge Allyson Kay Duncan*, CT. LISTENER, <https://perma.cc/34UE-42GH>.

Liza Roberts, *A Judge for All Seasons: Allyson Duncan*, WALTER, <https://perma.cc/9YPD-72G9>.

Mark Johnson, *The Law Runs in Her Family*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Sept. 3, 2003, at 1B.

Matt Leerberg, *Judge Duncan Celebrated for 15 Years on the Bench, Will Take Senior Status*, N.C. APP. PRAC. BLOG (July 16, 2018), <https://perma.cc/4U2G-LPY9>.

Matthew Eisley, *Possible Nominee Gets High Praise*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Feb. 3, 2003, at B1.

*N.C. Woman Sworn in as Judge on U.S. Appeals Court*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, Aug. 16, 2003, at B2.

*New Appellate Judge*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, Feb. 13, 1990, at 2C.

*Swearing-In is a Family Affair*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 16, 2003, at 3B.

## ERWIN, RICHARD C.

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN APPOINTED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS - 1977

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SINCE RECONSTRUCTION TO WIN A STATEWIDE ELECTION - 1978

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN APPOINTED TO A FEDERAL COURT IN NORTH CAROLINA - 1980

Judge Richard C. Erwin was born on August 23, 1923, in Marion, North Carolina.<sup>88</sup> During World War II, Judge Erwin served as an Army sergeant.<sup>89</sup> After the war, he returned to Charlotte, where he graduated from Johnson C. Smith University in 1947.<sup>90</sup> He next earned his law degree from Howard Law School in 1951.<sup>91</sup>

In 1974, Judge Erwin was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly, where he served two terms.<sup>92</sup> Governor Jim Hunt appointed Judge Erwin to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 1977, making him the first African American to serve on that court.<sup>93</sup> His election to a full term on the Court of Appeals in 1978 was the first time an African American won a statewide election in North Carolina since Reconstruction.<sup>94</sup>

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Erwin to be a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.<sup>95</sup> Although North Carolina Senator Robert Morgan and Governor Jim Hunt strongly supported Judge Erwin, Senator Jesse Helms refused to send his "blue slip" to the Senate Judiciary Committee for several

---

88. *Erwin, Richard Cannon*, FED. JUD. CTR., <https://perma.cc/V3A7-BTG3>.

89. Editorial, *Richard Erwin, Lawyer, Legislator, State and Federal Judge, Gentleman*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 10, 2006, at 10A.

90. *Id.*

91. *Id.*

92. *Judge Richard C. Erwin Bids for Re-Election*, CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, Apr. 6, 1978, at 6.

93. Press Release, Appeals Judges Named (Dec. 2, 1977) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

94. *Johnson C. Smith Names Erwin Distinguished Alumnus*, CHARLOTTE POST, Apr. 26, 1979, at 9; *U.S. Senate Confirms Judge Richard Erwin*, CAROLINA TIMES (Durham, N.C.), Oct. 4, 1980, at 1.

95. S. EXEC. J., 96th Cong., 2d Sess. 360 (1980).

months.<sup>96</sup> Senator Helms claimed to object to Judge Erwin's nomination because during his time in the legislature Judge Erwin sponsored a bill that would have nullified North Carolina's right-to-work law.<sup>97</sup> Senator Helms also objected to an unflattering newspaper article written by former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, which argued that Senator Helms was holding up Judge Erwin's nomination because of the impending 1980 presidential election and Judge Erwin's support of workers' rights despite North Carolina's right-to-work laws.<sup>98</sup> Judge Erwin swore out an affidavit stating that he had not provided Young any information about his confirmation process.<sup>99</sup> Senator Helms read both the article and Judge Erwin's affidavit into the record.<sup>100</sup>

Despite his previous objections to Judge Erwin's nomination, Senator Helms finally returned the blue slip, which allowed Judge Erwin's nomination to be brought to a Senate vote.<sup>101</sup> Judge Erwin's nomination was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on September 29, 1980.<sup>102</sup> He received his commission on September 30, 1980.<sup>103</sup> Judge Erwin served as the first African American Chief District Court Judge in North Carolina from 1988–1992, and assumed senior status on September 22, 1992.<sup>104</sup>

---

96. *U.S. Senate Confirms Judge Richard Erwin*, *supra* note 94, at 1. Blue slips are a Senate Judiciary Committee practice that occurs when a President nominates an individual to a United States circuit or district court judgeship. The chairman of the committee will send blue-colored forms to the Senators representing the home state of the nominee. BARRY J. MCMILLON, CONG. RES. SERV., R44975, *THE BLUE SLIP PROCESS FOR U.S. CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURT NOMINATIONS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 1* (2017). If the home state Senator has no objections, the blue slip is returned with a positive response; however, if the Senator objects, the blue slip is either not returned, or returned with a negative response. *Id.* If a blue slip is not returned or is negative, the Judiciary Committee is precluded from voting on the candidate. *Id.* The blue slip process is not codified within the Committee's rules. *Id.* The policy is set by the Judiciary Committee's chairman, and at times, can differ in practice from what is stated by the chair. *Id.*

97. Alfreda L. Madison, Editorial, *Erwin Becomes State's First Black Federal Judge*, CHARLOTTE POST, Sept. 25, 1980, at 2.

98. 126 CONG. REC. 27, 758–759 (1980) (statement of Sen. Helms).

99. *Id.*

100. *Id.*

101. Madison, *supra* note 97; Donna Oldham, *Erwin Gets Judgeship*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Oct. 4, 1980, at 1.

102. *Erwin, Richard Cannon*, *supra* note 88.

103. *Id.*

104. *Id.*; *Senator Helms Backs Black Judge*, CHARLOTTE POST, Aug. 18, 1988, at 1.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

S. EXEC. J., 96th Cong., 2d Sess. 360 (1980).

126 CONG. REC. 27, 758–759 (1980) (statement of Sen. Helms).

Alfreda L. Madison, Editorial, *Erwin Becomes State's First Black Federal Judge*, CHARLOTTE POST, Sep. 25, 1980, at 2.

Donna Oldham, *Erwin Gets Judgeship*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Oct. 4, 1980, at 1.

Editorial, *Richard Erwin, Lawyer, Legislator, State and Federal Judge, Gentleman*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 10, 2006, at 10A.

*Erwin Overcomes Politics*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Nov. 1, 1980, at 7.

*Erwin Accepts Oath of Office as U.S. Judge*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, Nov. 1, 1980, at 7.

*Erwin, Richard Cannon*, FED. JUD. CTR., <https://perma.cc/V3A7-BTG3>.

*Erwin Sworn in for Judgeship*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Jan. 14, 1978, at 1.

*Hon. Richard C. Erwin Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Feb. 13, 1997, at 11.

*Hunt Urges Support for Erwin Nomination*, CAROLINA TIMES (Durham, N.C.), Sept. 27, 1980, at 1.

*Johnson C. Smith Names Erwin Distinguished Alumnus*, CHARLOTTE POST, Apr. 26, 1979, at 9.

*Judge Richard C. Erwin Bids for Re-Election*, CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, Apr. 6, 1978, at 6.

Kathy Curry, *Appeals Judge Erwin Discusses Merit Selection*, DAILY TAR HEEL (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Sept. 5, 1978, at 8.

*Local Political Races in Full Swing: Many Candidates Have No Opposition*, NEWS-J. (Raeford, N.C.), Nov. 2, 1978, at 15.

Patrick Wilson, *Richard Erwin, First Black in N.C. to Serve as a Federal Judge, Dies at 83*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Nov. 9, 2006, at 2B.

Press Release, *Appeals Judges Named* (Dec. 2, 1977) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

*Selection and Confirmation of Federal Judges: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 96th Cong. 612–623 (1980).

*Senator Helms Backs Black Judge*, CHARLOTTE POST, Aug. 18, 1988, at 1.

Sharyn Bratcher, *Erwin Appointed to Appeals Court*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Dec. 10, 1977, at 1.

*U.S. Senate Confirms Judge Richard Erwin*, CAROLINA TIMES (DURHAM, N.C.), Oct. 4, 1980, at 1.

## FRYE, HENRY

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ON THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT - 1983

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHIEF JUSTICE ON THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT - 1999

Justice Henry Frye was born on August 1, 1932, in Ellerbe, North Carolina.<sup>105</sup> He graduated with honors from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (“N.C. A&T”) in 1953.<sup>106</sup> After graduation, he served in the United States Air Force in South Korea for four years, and

---

105. HOWARD E. COVINGTON, JR., *HENRY FRYE: NORTH CAROLINA’S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHIEF JUSTICE 1* (2013).

106. *Id.* at 36.

returned to Ellerbe, North Carolina after his service.<sup>107</sup> On the morning of his wedding, he attempted to register to vote, but was denied because he failed a literacy test.<sup>108</sup> Encouraged by a local attorney, Justice Frye decided to attend law school, and, in 1956, Justice Frye became the first African American to attend the University of North Carolina's School of Law as a first-year student.<sup>109</sup> He graduated from that institution in 1959.<sup>110</sup>

In 1962, Justice Frye was appointed by United States Attorney Robert Kennedy to become the first African American to be named an Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina.<sup>111</sup> In 1968, he became the first African American elected to the North Carolina General Assembly since Reconstruction.<sup>112</sup> After his election to the General Assembly, he sponsored a constitutional amendment to repeal the requirement of a literacy test to vote in North Carolina.<sup>113</sup> Justice Frye served for twelve years in the North Carolina House, two years in the North Carolina Senate, then returned to private practice before his appointment to the North Carolina Supreme Court.<sup>114</sup>

In 1983, Governor Jim Hunt appointed Justice Frye to the North Carolina Supreme Court to replace retiring Associate Justice J. Phil Carlton.<sup>115</sup> Justice Frye remained on the Supreme Court for an additional sixteen years, having won election to eight-year terms in 1984 and in 1992.<sup>116</sup> In 1999,

107. *See id.* at 46.

108. *Id.* at 49–50; *see* Joseph Neff, *Henry Frye, a Lifetime of Breaking New Ground*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 22, 1999, at 110. *See also* *Interview of Henry Frye*, RUTHERFURD LIVING HIST. (Mar. 31, 2016) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

109. COVINGTON, *supra* note 105, at 47–49, 52.

110. Kevin Washington, *Banquet Features First Black Law Grad*, DAILY TAR HEEL (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Feb. 25, 1985, at 3.

111. *Negro Approved for Court Post*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Nov. 23, 1962, at 15. Justice Frye was appointed by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. *Id.*; *see Applications for Deputy Job Listed*, ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM (Rocky Mount, N.C.), Nov. 29, 1962, at 7A; *Negro Aide Takes Duty in December*, DAILY TIMES-NEWS (Burlington, N.C.), Nov. 24, 1962, at 3B.

112. *State House Gets First Black Member Since 1898*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), Nov. 6, 1968, at 1.

113. *Vote on Literacy Test Planned in House Bill*, STATESVILLE REC. & LANDMARK, June 11, 1969, at 1.

114. Neff, *supra* note 108, at 110.

115. *Frye Nominated to Highest Court*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN, Jan. 13, 1983, at A1.

116. *See* Eric Dyer & Paula Christian, *Frye Named Court's Chief Justice*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC., Aug. 3, 1999, at A1.

Governor Jim Hunt appointed him Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.<sup>117</sup> In 2000, Chief Justice Frye lost re-election to fellow North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Beverly Lake.<sup>118</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Amy Wolfford, *Ex-Justice Joining Law Firm in City*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC., Jan. 9, 2001, at B1.

*Applications for Deputy Job Listed*, ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, Nov. 29, 1962, at 7A.

David Rice, *Hunt Names Frye Chief Justice*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Aug. 3, 1999, at A1.

Doug Clark, *The 'Literacy Test' That Henry Frye Failed*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC. BLOG (May 16, 2013), <https://perma.cc/9HDE-6HW7>.

Eric Dyer & Paula Christian, *Frye Named Court's Chief Justice*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC., Aug. 3, 1999, at A1.

Foon Rhee, *Likely Successor, Frye, Would Be First Black in Top Post*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, July 30, 1999, at 4C.

*Frye Nominated to Highest Court*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN, Jan. 13, 1983, at A1.

*Frye Sworn in as First Black Justice of N.C. Supreme Court*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., Feb. 10, 1983, at 7.

*Frye Sworn in as State's First Black Chief Justice*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, Sept. 9, 1999, at B5.

*Henry Frye Deserves to Remain Chief Justice*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC. (Oct. 12, 2000), <https://perma.cc/ZS6C-XW2A>.

---

117. Press Release, Governor's Papers James Baxter Hunt, Jr., Governor Hunt Appoints Henry Frye N.C. Supreme Court Justice (Aug. 2, 1999) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

118. Matthew Eisley, *Beaten, Frye Weighs New Career Options*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 9, 2000, at 20A.

*Henry Frye Announces Candidacy*, CAMPUS ECHO (Durham, N.C.), May 18, 1966, at 1.

HOWARD E. COVINGTON, JR., *HENRY FRYE: NORTH CAROLINA'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHIEF JUSTICE* (2013).

*Interview of Henry Frye*, RUTHERFURD LIVING HIST. (Mar. 31, 2016) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Jack Betts, Editorial, '*Accept it—and Move on,*' CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Dec. 8, 2000, at 22A.

John Kilgo, *Leading Ticket is Pleasant Surprise for Rep. Frye*, STATESVILLE REC. & LANDMARK, Nov. 25, 1970, at 7A.

John Kilgo, *Political Door Cracked for Tar Heel Black Man*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), Dec. 1, 1970, at 3.

John Wagner & Joseph Neff, *Frye Makes Judicial History*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 3, 1999, at 1A.

Joseph Neff, *Henry Frye, a Lifetime of Breaking New Ground*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 22, 1999, at 1.

*Justice Frye to Receive Honor from State ACLU*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Jan. 22, 2002, at B1.

Kevin Washington, *Banquet Features First Black Law Grad*, DAILY TAR HEEL (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Feb. 25, 1985, at 3.

Matthew Eisley, *Beaten, Frye Weighs New Career Options*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 9, 2000, at 20A.

*Negro Aide Takes Duty in December*, DAILY TIMES-NEWS (Burlington, N.C.), Nov. 24, 1962, at 3B.

*Negro Approved for Court Post*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Nov. 23, 1962, at 15.



*N.C. Literacy Test Ban Bill Doubtful in the Senate*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), June 11, 1969, at 1.

Press Release, Governor's Papers James Baxter Hunt, Jr., Governor Hunt Appoints Henry Frye N.C. Supreme Court Justice (Aug. 2, 1999) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Scott Mooneyham, *Frye to Lead State High Court*, STARNEWS (Wilmington, N.C.), Aug. 3, 1999, at 1B.

*State House Gets First Negro Member Since 1898*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), Nov. 6, 1968, at 1.

*State's First Black Chief Justice Now Teaching Class at N.C. A&T*, HERALD-SUN (Durham, N.C.), Dec. 31, 2001, at B7.

*Two A&T Grads Win Office in N.C. Elections*, FUTURE OUTLOOK (Greensboro, N.C.), Nov. 8, 1968, at 1.

*Vote on Literacy Test Planned in House Bill*, STATESVILLE REC. & LANDMARK, June 11, 1969, at 1.

William A. Shires, *Century's First Negro Assembly Member Remembered as 'Studious'*, ROBESONIAN (Lumberton, N.C.), Jan. 23, 1969, at 4.

## FULTON, SHIRLEY

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE - 1988

Judge Shirley Fulton was born on January 10, 1952, in Kingstree, South Carolina.<sup>119</sup> She had dropped out of college, but her work in the Guilford County Registrar of Deeds office inspired her to return, and she received her undergraduate degree in 1977 from North Carolina Agricultural

---

119. Jane Ruffin, *New Superior Court Judges Bring Diversity to the Bench*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 27, 1988, at 8D.

and Technical State University.<sup>120</sup> After graduating, she attended Duke Law School.<sup>121</sup> She was admitted to the North Carolina Bar in 1981.<sup>122</sup>

Judge Fulton served as Charlotte's first female African American woman assistant district attorney before Governor Jim Martin appointed her to the Mecklenburg District Court in 1987.<sup>123</sup> Later that same year, she decided to run for a seat on the Mecklenburg County Superior Court.<sup>124</sup> Fulton's 1988 victory made her the first African American woman elected to a North Carolina superior court seat.<sup>125</sup> She joined eight other African American judges elected to North Carolina's trial courts.<sup>126</sup>

Although Judge Fulton was the first African American woman elected to the superior court bench, she would have preferred not to have broken the barrier. As she recalled in a 2013 interview: "[i]t made [her] feel shame for society that we had come that far and we were just getting black females in the role."<sup>127</sup> In 1993, Judge Fulton was diagnosed with breast cancer and took a leave from the bench in 1996 to undergo treatment.<sup>128</sup> She returned to the bench in 1997, and was named Senior Resident Superior Court Judge in 1998.<sup>129</sup> Judge Fulton retired from the bench in January 2003.<sup>130</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Herb White, *District Court Judge Fulton to Run for Superior Court*, CHARLOTTE POST, Dec. 3, 1987, at 1.

Jane Ruffin, *New Superior Court Judges Bring Diversity to the Bench*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 27, 1988, at 8D.

---

120. Ruffin, *supra* note 119; John Minter, *History Beckons Trailblazing Jurist*, CHARLOTTE POST, May 29, 1997, at 1.

121. Minter, *supra* note 120.

122. *Shirley Fulton Named to District Court Judgeship*, CHARLOTTE POST, Jan. 15, 1987, at 6B.

123. *Id.*; Karen Parker, *Shirley Fulton is City's First Black Assistant D.A.*, CHARLOTTE POST, Nov. 25, 1982, at 1.

124. Herb White, *District Court Judge Fulton to Run for Superior Court*, CHARLOTTE POST, Dec. 3, 1987, at 1.

125. Minter, *supra* note 120.

126. Ruffin, *supra* note 119.

127. *Law Grad Led N.C. Superior Court*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 21, 2013, at 2B (internal quotation marks omitted).

128. *Id.*

129. *Id.*

130. Press Release, Governor's Papers, Michael F. Easley, Gov. Easley Names Evans to Superior Court (Jan. 13, 2003) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

John Minter, *History Beckons Trailblazing Jurist*, CHARLOTTE POST, May 29, 1997, at 1.

Karen Parker, *Shirley Fulton is City's First Black Assistant D.A.*, CHARLOTTE POST, Nov. 25, 1982, at 1.

*Law Grad Led N.C. Superior Court*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 21, 2013, at 2B.

Press Release, Governor's Papers, Michael F. Easley, Gov. Easley Names Evans to Superior Court (Jan. 13, 2003) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

*Shirley Fulton Named to District Judgeship*, CHARLOTTE POST, Jan. 15, 1987, at 6B.

## GRANT, CY A.

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE - 1988

Judge Cy Grant, Sr. was born on April 9, 1955, in Windsor, North Carolina.<sup>131</sup> He earned his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central University in 1977 and graduated from its law school in 1981.<sup>132</sup>

After graduating from law school, Judge Grant clerked for United States District Court Judge Richard C. Erwin from 1981–1982.<sup>133</sup> He next served as an assistant district attorney for the Sixth Judicial District from 1983–1985.<sup>134</sup> After leaving the district attorney's office he entered into private practice in Ahoskie, North Carolina.<sup>135</sup>

In 1988, Judge Grant won the Democratic primary for a new Superior Court seat created by the General Assembly in an effort to improve diversity

---

131. Ruffin, *supra* note 119.

132. *Id.*

133. *Id.*

134. *Id.* According to the Annual Report of the North Carolina Courts 1984–1985, “[p]rosecutorial districts coincide with judicial districts except for the Third District.” N.C. ADMIN. OFFICE OF THE COURTS, NORTH CAROLINA COURTS 1984–1985 31 (1986).

135. Ruffin, *supra* note 119.

to the North Carolina court system.<sup>136</sup> His November 1988 election was one of three contested superior court races.<sup>137</sup> Judge Grant beat the opposing candidate 984,140 votes to 955,881 votes.<sup>138</sup>

Judge Grant's election to the newly created District 6B made him the sole Superior Court Judge for Bertie, Hertford, and Northampton Counties.<sup>139</sup> According to the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts, Senior Resident Superior Court Judges were selected by either seniority on the bench, or by being the only Superior Court Judge in a district.<sup>140</sup> Senior Resident status confers significant responsibilities onto a Superior Court judge, including controlling the court schedule, appointing public defenders, and setting bail policy.<sup>141</sup>

Judge Grant won re-election to the bench in 1996, 2004, and 2012.<sup>142</sup> He is up for re-election in 2020.<sup>143</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Black Lawyer Wins Superior Court Primary; Another Leads Race*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), May 4, 1988, at 15A.

*Court Races Still Await Final Vote Reports*, DAILY TAR HEEL (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Nov. 10, 1988, at 2.

*Cy A. Grant*, BALLOTPEDIA, <https://perma.cc/AU9E-5PHQ>.

136. *Black Lawyer Wins Superior Court Primary; Another Leads Race*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), May 4, 1988, at 15A.

137. *Court Races Still Await Final Vote Reports*, DAILY TAR HEEL (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Nov. 10, 1988, at 2.

138. *N.C. Elections Board Certifies Vote Totals*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 30, 1988, at 4B.

139. See N.C. GEN. STAT. § 7A-41.1(b)(1)–(2) (2017); N.C. ADMIN. OFFICE OF THE COURTS, NORTH CAROLINA COURTS 1988–1989 28, 31 (1990).

140. N.C. ADMIN. OFFICE OF THE COURTS, NORTH CAROLINA COURTS 1988–1989, *supra* note 139, at 33. Judge Grant's biography on *Ballopedia* states that he was appointed Senior Resident Superior Court Judge by Governor Jim Martin in 1989. *Cy A. Grant*, BALLOTPEDIA, <https://perma.cc/AU9E-5PHQ>.

141. See N.C. ADMIN. OFFICE OF THE COURTS, NORTH CAROLINA COURTS 1988–1989, *supra* note 139, at 33.

142. *Certification of the Results of the General Election held on November 5, 1996 by the State Board of Elections at the Canvass*, N.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS 3 (Dec. 6, 2011), <https://perma.cc/6S4P-ZRVV>; *2004 General Election Results*, N.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS 29 (Dec. 5, 2011), <https://perma.cc/PSM9-MN7X>; *11/06/2012 Official General Election Results - Statewide*, N.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS (Nov. 16, 2012), <https://perma.cc/Y6XY-D4M4>.

143. *Cy A. Grant*, *supra* note 140.

Editorial, *For State Court Judgeships: Appeals and Superior Court Contests on Tuesday's Ballot*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 4, 1988.

*Election Results*, N.C. ST. BOARD OF ELECTIONS, <https://perma.cc/6Z3E-GHE3>.

*GOP Shows Strength in Appeals Court Races*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 9, 1988, at 5C.

Herb White, *Judicial Candidate Feels Democrats' Woes Won't Hurt*, CHARLOTTE POST, Oct. 27, 1988, at 2A.

Jane Ruffin, *New Superior Court Judges Bring Diversity to the Bench*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 27, 1988, at 8D.

N.C. ADMIN. OFFICE OF THE COURTS, NORTH CAROLINA COURTS 1988–1989: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS 31–33 (1989).

*N.C. Elections Board Certifies Vote Totals*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 30, 1988, at 4B.

Patricia Brown & Michael Spirtas, *Republicans, Democrats Split Victories Across State*, DAILY TAR HEEL (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Nov. 9, 1988, at 4.

## JOHNSON, CLIFTON E.

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
- 1974

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT  
JUDGE - 1977

Judge Clifton E. Johnson was born in Williamston, North Carolina on December 9, 1941, and died in Asheville, North Carolina on June 25, 2009.<sup>144</sup> He was a graduate of E.J. Hayes High School in Williamston,

---

144. Resolution and Memorial in Honor and Memory of Clifton Earl Johnson, Mecklenburg County Court (Feb. 24, 2011) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

North Carolina.<sup>145</sup> He earned his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central University in 1965, and his law degree from its law school in 1967.<sup>146</sup>

After graduating and passing the North Carolina Bar, Judge Johnson worked at the Durham law firm Pearson, Malone, Johnson, and DeJarmom.<sup>147</sup> In 1969, he was hired as an assistant solicitor to the 26th District in Mecklenburg County.<sup>148</sup> That same year, he was appointed by Governor Robert "Bob" Scott to be a Mecklenburg County District Court Judge.<sup>149</sup>

In 1974, Judge Johnson became the first African American appointed Chief District Court Judge.<sup>150</sup> Three years later, he was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to be the first African American Resident Superior Court Judge.<sup>151</sup> In 1982, Governor Hunt appointed Judge Johnson to the North Carolina Court of Appeals.<sup>152</sup> During his time on the Court of Appeals, Judge Johnson rose to the rank of Senior Associate Judge.<sup>153</sup> In 1992, he was appointed the state's first African American Chairman of the North Carolina Judicial Standards Committee.<sup>154</sup> Judge Johnson retired from the judiciary in 1996.<sup>155</sup>

---

145. *Id.*

146. *Id.*

147. *Charlotte Negro Named to Discuss Judge's Post*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 6, 1969; Press Release, Governor Bob Scott, Scott Announced Appointment of Clifton Johnson (Aug. 5, 1969) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

148. *Scott Names Judge*, GASTONIA GAZETTE, Aug. 6, 1969, at 13A.

149. *Id.*; See also Press Release, Governor Bob Scott, Scott Announced Appointment of Clifton Johnson, *supra* note 147.

150. Resolution and Memorial in Honor and Memory of Clifton Earl Johnson, *supra* note 144.

151. Press Release, Governor's Office, Gov. Hunt Appoints Superior Court Judges (Nov. 23, 1977) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

152. Donald Alderman, *Johnson Moves On*, CAROLINA TIMES (Durham, N.C.), Aug. 28, 1982, at 1.

153. Resolution and Memorial in Honor and Memory of Clifton Earl Johnson, *supra* note 144.

154. *Id.*; *2 Judges Appointed to Standards Panel*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Jan. 4, 1991, at 4B.

155. Resolution and Memorial in Honor and Memory of Clifton Earl Johnson, *supra* note 144.

In 2010, Judge Johnson was posthumously awarded the Julius L. Chambers Diversity Champion Award by the North Carolina Bar Association.<sup>156</sup> In 2012, the Mecklenburg County Commissioners renamed the Mecklenburg criminal court building in his honor.<sup>157</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Black Judges in the South*, EBONY, Mar. 1971, at 34.

Bruce Siceloff, *Superior Court Judge to Succeed Martin*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), July 13, 1962, at 1.

*Charlotte Negro Named to Discuss Judge's Post*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 6, 1969, at 3.

*Courts Building Named in Honor of Trailblazing Judge*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Aug. 23, 2012, at 1B.

Donald Alderman, *Johnson Moves On*, CAROLINA TIMES (Durham, N.C.), Aug. 28, 1982, at 1.

Editorial, *A Crop of Good Judges*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 28, 1990, at 6J.

Elizabeth Leland, *New Appeals Court Judge Hopes to Set Example*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Aug. 8, 1982, at 3D.

*Hunt Names 8 Judges*, DAILY TIMES-NEWS (Burlington, N.C.), Nov. 24, 1977, at 4D.

*Judge Clifton Johnson*, MECKLENBURG COUNTY BAR, <https://perma.cc/E4ZP-9N7E>.

---

156. *Id.*

157. *Courts Building Named in Honor of Trailblazing Judge*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Aug. 23, 2012, at 1B.

Judges of the District Courts (Aug. 5, 1969), *in* *Appointments, 1969–1972*, Robert W. Scott, Governor's Papers (State Archives of North Carolina) (courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Letter from the Honorable Clifton E. Johnson, Dist. Court Judge of Mecklenburg Cty., N.C., to the Honorable Robert W. Scott, Governor of the State of N.C. (Aug. 21, 1969) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Letter from the Honorable Robert W. Scott, Governor of the State of N.C., to the Honorable Clifton E. Johnson, Dist. Court Judge of Mecklenburg Cty., N.C. (Aug. 7, 1969) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Lori Grier, *Johnson's Proud of His Achievements in Judicial System*, CHARLOTTE POST, Feb. 23, 1984, at 3B.

*Negro Named District Court Judge*, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, Aug. 6, 1969, at 6A.

Press Release, Governor Bob Scott, Scott Announced Appointment of Clifton Johnson (Aug. 5, 1969) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Press Release, Governor's Office, Gov. Hunt Appoints Superior Court Judges (Nov. 23, 1977) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

Resolution and Memorial in Honor and Memory of Clifton Earl Johnson, Mecklenburg County Court (Feb. 24, 2011) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

*Scott Names Judge*, GASTONIA GAZETTE, Aug. 6, 1969, at 13A.

*State Seeks \$1,626 from Lawyer Here*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Sep. 12, 1963, at 32.

*2 Judges Appointed to Standards Panel*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Jan. 4, 1991, at 4B.



## TIMMONS-GOODSON, PATRICIA

### FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO SERVE ON NORTH CAROLINA'S DISTRICT, APPELLATE, AND SUPREME COURTS - 2006

Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson was born on September 18, 1954, in Florence, South Carolina.<sup>158</sup> She graduated from Pine Forest High School in 1972.<sup>159</sup> She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1976 and graduated from its law school in 1979.<sup>160</sup>

After graduating and passing the North Carolina Bar, Justice Timmons-Goodson worked for two years as an assistant district attorney under former Cumberland County District Attorney Ed Grannis, and then a year as a staff lawyer with Lumbee Legal Services.<sup>161</sup> In 1984, Governor Jim Hunt named Justice Timmons-Goodson as the first African American woman to serve as a District Court Judge for the 12th Judicial District.<sup>162</sup> After her initial appointment, she was elected to the district court in 1986, 1990, and 1994.<sup>163</sup>

In 1997, Governor Hunt appointed then-Judge Timmons-Goodson to the North Carolina Court of Appeals.<sup>164</sup> In 1998, she won election to the Court of Appeals, making her the first African American woman elected to that court.<sup>165</sup> She retired from the Court of Appeals in October of 2005.<sup>166</sup>

158. *Patricia Timmons-Goodson*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Dec. 22, 2008), <https://perma.cc/LP46-3ZA6>.

159. *Id.*

160. Andrea Weigl, *Supreme Court Gets New Justice*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Feb. 8, 2006, at 7B.

161. Michael Futch, *Patricia Timmons-Goodson: A Voice for Justice, Stability*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER (Feb. 9, 2019), <https://perma.cc/TZ8S-2EYB>; *Woman Gets New Judgeship in Cumberland and Hoke*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Sept. 1, 1984, at 3C.

162. *Woman Gets New Judgeship in Cumberland and Hoke*, *supra* note 161.

163. *Patricia Timmons-Goodson*, *supra* note 158.

164. Marc Barnes, *Judge Named to Appeals Court*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Jan. 16, 1997, at A1.

165. *Bill Corrects Election Loophole*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Nov. 5, 1998, at B1; Futch, *supra* note 161. It should be noted that Chief Justice Cheri Beasley was the first African American woman to be elected to the Court of Appeals without having been appointed by a governor first, unlike Justice Timmons-Goodson, who had been appointed by a Governor before winning election. See Beasley, *supra* note 42, at 1.

166. David Ingram, *Easley Selects a New Justice*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Jan. 20, 2006, at B1.

In 2006, Governor Mike Easley appointed Justice Timmons-Goodson to the North Carolina Supreme Court.<sup>167</sup> At the time of her appointment, there had not been an African American Supreme Court Justice in three years.<sup>168</sup> Justice Timmons-Goodson was the first African American woman to serve on the North Carolina Supreme Court.<sup>169</sup>

Justice Timmons-Goodson retired from the North Carolina Supreme Court in 2012.<sup>170</sup> Governor Beverly Perdue appointed former North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Cheri Beasley to Justice Timmons-Goodson's seat.<sup>171</sup> In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Justice Timmons-Goodson to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.<sup>172</sup>

In 2016, President Obama nominated Justice Timmons-Goodson to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina; however, North Carolina Senator Richard Burr blocked her nomination.<sup>173</sup> Senator Burr refused to back Justice Timmons-Goodson's nomination because he believed there was a deal between himself and President Obama that allowed him, and not the President, to select the nominee for the empty seat.<sup>174</sup> At the time of Justice Timmons-Goodson's nomination, the Eastern District of North Carolina vacancy had not been filled since January 1, 2006.<sup>175</sup>

Justice Timmons-Goodson currently serves as Vice Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.<sup>176</sup>

---

167. *Id.*

168. *Id.*

169. Gary L. Wright, *Appointee, Challenger Seek Seat*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Oct. 29, 2006, at 3B.

170. Gary D. Robertson, *Timmons-Goodson to Leave N.C. Supreme Court*, WWAY NEWS (Nov. 28, 2012), <https://perma.cc/BBK4-BFR3>.

171. Craig Jarvis, *Perdue Picks Top Court Judge*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Dec. 13, 2012, at 1A.

172. Virginia Bridges, *Patricia Timmons-Goodson Blazes a Trail to Lift Up Future Generations*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Mar. 31, 2019, at 2C.

173. *Timmons-Goodson U.S. Judge Nominee*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Apr. 29, 2016; Anne Blythe, *Burr Vows to Block Obama Nomination to NC Federal Court Seat*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Apr. 28, 2016) (on file with Campbell Law Review); Doug Clark, *Burr Explains Mysterious 'Deal' with Obama*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC.: OFF THE REC. (Nov. 1, 2016), <https://perma.cc/XY2V-SVR2>.

174. *Id.*

175. Anne Blythe, *Burr Vows to Block Obama Nomination to NC Federal Court Seat*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Apr. 28, 2016) (on file with Campbell Law Review).

176. Bridges, *supra* note 172.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Amanda Dolasinski, *President Appoints Former State Justice*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, July 29, 2014.

Andrea Weigl, *High Drama for High Court*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 29, 2006, 1B.

Anne Blythe, *Burr Vows to Block Obama Nomination to NC Federal Court Seat*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Apr. 28, 2016), (on file with Campbell Law Review).

*Bill Corrects Election Loophole*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Nov. 5, 1998, at B1.

Cash Michaels, *Past, Present Black N.C. Justices Honored*, WINSTON-SALEM CHRON., (Aug. 31, 2017), <https://perma.cc/39DD-QZNW>.

Craig Jarvis, *Perdue Picks Top Court Judge*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Dec. 13, 2012, at 1A.

David Ingram, *Easley Selects a New Justice*, WINSTON-SALEM J., Jan. 20, 2006, at B1.

Editorial, *Election Recap: A Summary of Our Endorsements*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Nov. 3, 1998, at 10A.

Editorial, *Excellence*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Jan. 17, 1997.

Gary D. Robertson, *Timmons-Goodson to Leave N.C. Supreme Court*, WWAY NEWS (Nov. 28, 2012), <https://perma.cc/BBK4-BFR3>.

Gary L. Wright, *Appointee, Challenger Seek Seat*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Oct. 29, 2006, at 3B.

Jena Heath, *Hunt Promises to Fight Racism*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Jan. 16, 1997, at A3.

John Fuquay, *Newest Judge Makes History*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Feb. 8, 2006.

*Judge Is Named Citizen of the Year*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Nov. 19, 1988, at 1B.

Kyle York Spencer, *Appellate Court Races Remain Undecided*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Nov. 5, 1998, at 3A.

Marc Barnes, *Judge Named to Appeals Court*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Jan. 16, 1997, at 1C.

Michael Futch, *Patricia Timmons-Goodson: A Voice for Justice, Stability*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER (Feb. 9, 2019), <https://perma.cc/TZ8S-2EYB>.

Opinion, *Timmons-Goodson Earns More Time on the Job*, GREENSBORO NEWS & REC., Oct. 21, 2006, at A8.

*Patricia Timmons-Goodson*, HERALD-SUN (Durham, N.C.), Nov. 2, 1998, at C4.

Paul Woolverton, *New Judges Add Diversity*, FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Jan. 7, 2015, at 1A.

Press Release, Michael F. Easley, Gov. Easley Appoints Timmons-Goodson to N.C. Supreme Court (Jan. 19, 2006).

Sabrina Jones, *Wake Women Carving Out Place on the Ballot*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 23, 1998, at 1B.

*Timmons-Goodson is the First African American Woman on the N.C. Supreme Court*, N.C. LAW. WKLY., Feb. 13, 2006.

Virginia Bridges, *Patricia Timmons-Goodson Blazes a Trail to Lift Up Future Generations*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Mar. 31, 2019, at 1C.

Wade Rawlins, *Voters to Pick 7 Appellate Judges*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Oct. 26, 1998, at 1A.

*Woman Gets New Judgeship in Cumberland and Hoke*, NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), Sep. 1, 1984, at 3C.

# COMMENTS

